Governments grant and renew licenses of Chemist shops for sale of medicines and ensure that the medicines are supplied/sold by or under the supervision of registered Pharmacist. The complaints in respect of sale of medicines by chemist shop are handled by Drugs Licensing Authorities appointed by the State Governments. The Drug Controller General (India) has informed that in the recent past, the State Drug Licensing Authorities have not referred any case of tragic incidents with patients because of wrong medicines being sold by chemist shops to his office.

National scheme for maternity entitlements

1596. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Scheme for maternity entitlements in the informal sector is being introduced; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No Madam, there is no such scheme being introduced as National Scheme for Maternity Entitlement by this Ministry.

However, as per information received from the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MOWCD) they are in the process of formulating Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme with the objective to improve the health and nutrition status of the pregnant and lactating women, to improve IMR and the birth weight of the child and to follow Infant Young Child Feeding Practices (IYCF).

Promotional avenues of pharmacists

†1597. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Pharmacist in some States comes under gazetted rank, and has better prospects of promotion etc.;

(b) whether with better prospects of promotional avenues, the employees/officers of Central Government with lesser qualifications move ahead, while Pharmacists of CGHS with higher qualification and experience remain stuck to the same post for years together;

(c) if so, whether Government will remove this anomaly with regard to pharmacists of CGHS by getting information from the concerned State Governments; and

(d) if so, the time by when the anomaly will be removed?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare does not maintain data of Pharmacists posted in states as health is a

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.